

Services Secretary being forced to resign over this same exact thing.

Anyway, why is the DOT refusing to tell the American people how much Secretary Buttigieg's 23 flights on private jets have cost them?

Maybe the Secretary should just come to Capitol Hill and answer these questions for himself. It would be a cheap trip, and it wouldn't require airfare.

Either way, it is time for him to resign. That will allow him time to promote wokeness and take private jets on his own dime and his own time.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF THE DIVINE NINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the women of the Divine Nine, the historically Black sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

I am proud to honor the organizations that have produced some of our Nation's best and brightest leaders. For over 100 years, these organizations have fostered and empowered generations of Black women to become leaders in government, business, academia, and so much more.

I am not exaggerating when I say these historically Black sororities have shaped the course of history.

I want to take a moment to salute each sorority.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority—their colors are salmon pink and apple green—was founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their mission: Service to all mankind. Their sisterhood proudly boasts Vice President KAMALA HARRIS; also my colleagues, Congresswomen SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, EMILIA SYKES, and LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER.

□ 1015

I salute former Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and also members of their membership, civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King, and their honorable president, Danette Anthony Reed.

Next, we have Delta Sigma Theta. Their colors are crimson and cream, founded in 1913 at Howard University. Delta's motto is "intelligence is the torch of wisdom."

Delta counts as sisters, my esteemed colleagues YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, STACEY PLASKETT, LUCY MCBATH, SUMMER LEE, JASMINE CROCKETT, VALERIE FOUSHEE, and our newest Member, JENNIFER MCCLELLAN. I also salute former Congresswoman Val Demings and our HUD Secretary, Marsha Fudge.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to Congress, and she also was a member of Delta Sigma Theta. Their

honorable president is Elsie Cooke-Holmes.

Next, we have Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Their colors are blue and white. It was founded in 1920 at Howard University. Zeta's founding principles are scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood.

My colleague Congresswoman SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE is a member of Zeta Phi Beta, as well as former Congresswoman Donna Edwards and the late Congresswoman Julia Carson. They boast as members Anita Hill and author Zora Neale Hurston. Their honorable president is Stacie NC Grant.

Last but not least, my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. We wear the colors of royal blue and gold. We were founded in 1922 at Butler University, just celebrating our 100th year.

My sisters in Sigma are Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, as well as the late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, and former Congresswoman Corrine Brown. In our membership is the first African-American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel, and the first African-American woman journalist to cover the White House, Alice Allison Dunnigan. Our esteemed grand basileus is Rasheeda S. Liberty.

The women of the Divine Nine have driven progress on everything from women's suffrage to civil rights. These organizations were instrumental to the end of the brutal regime of Jim Crow. Alumnae have also made advancements in industry, medicine, entertainment, and more.

In short, the historically Black sororities have been critical to the advancement of Black women in America and have changed history for the better.

Our work is far from done. The strength and solidarity of these organizations is needed now more than ever.

In just the first months of 2023, our country continues to see efforts to turn back the clock on fundamental civil rights. Black people are still not safe in their own communities. Black people have less say in their government, and voting rights are being chipped away. The threat of racist violence is still painfully present in too many communities.

I have so much hope in the new generation of leaders that begin their journey as college students with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, or Sigma Gamma Rho. Each year, more young people go out into the world to make our country a better place.

The road ahead is long, but I am confident that our coalitions for justice and equality will only grow because of the continued strength of the women of the Divine Nine along with our five historically Black fraternities.

WESTERN WATER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a critical dilemma in the fight to address the worst drought facing the American West in 12 centuries.

Right now, water managers are doing everything they can to address and respond to the ongoing Western water crisis. At the same time, they cannot always readily access the critical data they need to measure water loss, respond effectively, and keep more water in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: We can't manage what we cannot measure.

Nevada's plentiful sunshine is one of our State's greatest assets. It makes our State a top destination for outdoor recreation, the solar center of our transition to clean energy. It is also a key driver in evapotranspiration, or ET, water loss in Nevada, throughout the West, and across this country.

The situation at Lake Mead and across the West remains dire. We need to take action now. The future of our water supplies depends on us getting this information into the hands of people who are on the ground tackling this crisis every day.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan, bicameral Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act to formally establish a Federal OpenET program and fill the biggest data gap in water management by making critical ET data more accessible.

It will allow everyone access, from water managers and experts like scientists, academics, and advocacy organizations to farmers and ranchers to literally anyone with internet access; it is that accessible.

There is no time to waste in protecting our most precious resource. It is time to start better measuring, managing, and planning to protect Nevada's future.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today on International Women's Day as a woman in Congress who has served not one, not two, but three terms in this House where every single time we have shattered the record for the largest number of women serving in this body.

A woman's place is in this House, and I am honored to serve alongside such strong trailblazers who are setting the stage for the next generation of girls who will undoubtedly continue to shatter this glass ceiling.

We are not there yet. While women make up the largest voting bloc in the United States of America, we are still a minority here in the people's House. That is why I tell every little girl I meet crisscrossing southern Nevada to dream big and run for something.

Just over 100 years ago, we didn't have the right to vote in this country, and that is why so many of the laws and flaws of our system are stacked against us; whether that is equal pay for equal work, affordable childcare, adequate healthcare coverage for

mothers, and equitable access for women of color who continue to face disproportionately high maternal mortality rates, or the right to make our own decisions with our own bodies.

Today marks the first International Women's Day since the Supreme Court obliterated our rights less than a year ago in overturning 50 years of Roe; 50 years of a woman's right to choose.

In States across this country, the right to an abortion is under attack even in cases of rape, incest, and the health of a mother.

In this House there are extreme proposals to set us all backwards with a national ban on abortion. We will not go back, and we will not be intimidated.

I am proud to be from the Battle Born State, home of a majority woman Federal delegation in Congress, home of a majority woman State Supreme Court, and home of the first woman majority State legislature.

That is worth celebrating today. That is the model for this House by, for, and of the people. This is what I hope will inspire the next generation of girls to run, win, and lead our country forward.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT AN UNEARNED HANDOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Madam Speaker, in my district, the average per capita income is \$32,000 a year. That is six counties from Lincoln County, down the coast of Oregon, to Curry County and the California border.

Over 160,000 seniors in my district rely on Social Security for retirement.

My colleagues across the aisle are approaching Social Security as if it is an unearned handout, and that is beyond offensive. This is not what it was meant to do. This is not what it was meant to be. People have paid into this system for their whole lives. They should be able to get their contributions back. That is the promise of our Social Security program.

Right now, we only tax income up to \$160,000 a year to fund Social Security. Millionaires and billionaires who get their income from investments instead of earning a paycheck through hard work are not paying their fair share into Social Security at all, and we must change that system.

By finally requiring that the wealthiest Americans pay into Social Security at the same rate as hardworking nurses and firefighters across this country, we can expand benefits and not cut them.

My bill, the Social Security Expansion Act, which I introduced with Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY and Senator BERNIE SANDERS, would allow us to increase the Social Security benefits for everyone by \$200 a month and help account for the inflation that has impacted many seniors in my district and across this country.

This bill would also extend the solvency of this critical program for the next 75 years.

I am not in Congress to protect billionaires. I am here to make sure those people who have paid into this system for their whole lives, who have worked so hard, including our fishermen, electricians, and schoolteachers can retire with dignity. We can welcome a new generation of the workforce as they retire.

It is our responsibility to make sure that Social Security can be successful into the future, and I am proud to have a bill that helps protect that.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Women's Day and to recognize that there are many faiths in this Nation, but in some of our faith the Book of Proverbs talks about the virtuous woman. I would like to emphasize that theme in its broadness.

The virtuousness of women across the land and around the world is to be able to acknowledge the very unique and specific duties and responsibilities and vulnerabilities that women have and to celebrate them in every aspect of life.

Today, in America, women get up and go to work in blue-collar labor jobs for low hourly wages—from waitresses to bus drivers to working in the building trades to being in jobs that barely make ends meet—tough jobs—but giving them a better way of life. They have never refused their assignment. They are the caretakers. They are the loving moms. The little ones grab their legs and look to them for hope and survival.

I pay tribute to those women, the everyday women, ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Thank you to America's women.

Then I take to this podium to honor those women in conflict, the women protecting their children in Ukraine, fighting in the battles in uniform in the Ukrainian military.

I honor those women who fell in battle. I honor those women who fell under the vicious bombing and brutality of Russia's desperate Vladimir Putin in this horrible war with Ukraine.

I honor the women in Sudan. I honor the women from Pakistan to India. I honor the women in Syria and Turkiye in the midst of this horrible earthquake. I honor impoverished women, women who are barely surviving on the continent of Africa and South and Central America. I honor the migrant women who are struggling to give their family a better life.

It is important that I recognize and honor the civil rights fighters. This weekend, we spent time honoring

Bloody Sunday that our late colleague John Lewis reminded us of, the moment of fighting for voting rights. We know that Sister Boynton, Coretta Scott King, so many women—Viola Liuzzo—fought in the civil rights movement nonviolently and are no longer here with us by loss of life from natural causes but others who were simply murdered because they believed in civil rights.

I am here to honor those in my own community. It is important to take note of Willie Bell Boone, Beulah Shepard, Etta Crockett, who is fighting for her life, but has been an enormous strength in our community, believing in not only civil rights but the process of voting and empowerment.

I honor my grandmother Olive Jackson; my grandmother Vannie Bennett; my big grandmother Mrs. Sims. I honor—called big mother, of course—my mother, Ivalita Jackson; my Aunt Valrie Bennett, and my other close aunts, Sybil Gooden and Sarah Jackson.

These women molded me and indicated that in spite of the segregated life you lived in, that all things are possible.

□ 1030

It is important today, as we honor the international women suffering, fighting still for their freedom and their dignity, that we honor those who have fallen by way of age or disaster.

We honor those in my own community in Houston. I honor my former women mayors, Kathy Whitmire and Annise Parker, in Houston, Texas, and recognize that women are still striving.

On this day, I make a pronouncement that I want to take a hammer to the scourge of domestic violence with brutality and guns against women. I want to stop the scourge of human trafficking, where young girls and women are the largest victims.

When we come to this podium to talk about International Women's Day, we must come with action and maybe even an iron fist that is, in fact, strong and nonviolent but with a commitment that we will stand for things that will draw us to make life better for these women who are there every single day.

I want to make sure that I pay tribute to those who molded me outside of my home. Thank you to the teachers of America, some going unapplauded, some going unappreciated, some going uncompensated. Thank you to America's teachers. I could not be where I was or am today without public school education. Who was in it? It was our teachers.

Madam Speaker, I say to you: International Women's Day is a day of honor and a day of action.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.